

I am writing to support HB5530 An Act Concerning Dissection Choice.

As a Student here in Connecticut in the 80s I avoided taking a Biology class in fear that I would be asked to dissect an animal, a requirement which I was uncomfortable with. I wish I were stronger and said something to the school, and perhaps there would have been room for me to take the class without having to cut up cats and pigs. Education is very important to me and I am grateful for my studies, from my time at Berlin High to My Masters Degree Program at UConn. If the legislature back then had the forethought to enact a rule allowing me to take the biology course without the cutting up of animals who we consider no different than our pets, I believe I would have had a richer school experience.

Fast forward 20 years now I am a dad. I am afraid my son John will soon be forced to make a similar decision to the one I made back then. We are raising John to be a thoughtful, inquisitive, and compassionate person. When he asks us about the 6th commandment "Thou Shalt Not Kill" we explain that doing harm to anyone or anything is "killing" in Gods eyes. We tell him that it is his choice to be compassionate to: his class mates, the dog, and the other people and animals he comes in contact with. Please allow him to continue his compassionate choices as he enters his school years here in Southington where we currently live, or in Cheshire where my wife Tracy and I are building our dream home.

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